



The President's Daily Brief

December 4, 1975

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~~Top Secret~~

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December 4, 1975

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(This brief, with information as of 1:00 P.M. EST, was cabled on this date to the President in Asia.)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ANGOLA

Forces of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola earlier this week breached the defensive line of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola along the Lifune River. By December 3, these forces, presumably bolstered by Cuban troops, were about 45 miles south of the National Front's headquarters at Ambriz.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Most of the estimated 600 to 800 Zairian troops stationed there fled northward toward Ambrizete, despite National Front efforts to stop them.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Morale within the National Front in northern Angola apparently has been low for some time as its forces have been pushed back since their earlier advance to within ten miles of Luanda. It is not certain at this time that they can be rallied to give a strong defense of Ambriz, even with substantial Zairian support.

The capture of Ambriz would deprive the National Front of its major base of operations in northern Angola, leaving only Carmona as a staging area for military operations. Carmona, however, is in the interior and cannot easily be resupplied. It will be extremely difficult for the National Front to mount any sort of counteroffensive against the Popular Movement if it loses Ambriz.

INDONESIA - PORTUGUESE TIMOR

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] there is a possibility that the present offensive in Timor by pro-Indonesia Timorese [REDACTED] may seize Dili prior to the arrival of regular Indonesian forces. The regular forces could then describe their mission as peace-keeping designed to assure order. According to the scenario, three months after order is restored Indonesia would organize a referendum in East Timor to provide the legal ratification for integration of the former colony as a province of Indonesia.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Suharto undoubtedly is still concerned about the effects of an Indonesian invasion on his bilateral relations with the US and, in particular, continuation of US military aid. He probably hopes he can present a plausible justification for intervention that will avert problems with Washington. His military commanders, moreover, may have worked out a battle plan that will exclude the use of US security assistance equipment in the final cross-border operation, thereby observing the letter if not the spirit of Indonesian-US agreements.

PORTUGAL

The Communists were dealt another blow on December 3 when the Azevedo government nationalized all radio and television stations except those that are foreign- or church-owned.

Nationalization has been expected since government forces occupied the stations during the mutiny last week. Although the Communists up to now have not been directly implicated in the mutiny, media under their control have been accused of contributing to the atmosphere that produced the uprising and of supporting it once it was under way.

The Communists' grip on the national press was loosened last week when the administrative and editorial boards of eight major newspapers were summarily dismissed. Top officials of the government news agency, which had served as a Communist propaganda outlet, were also replaced.

On top of all this, the Communist Party's right to a place in the government is being challenged. Although Major Ernesto Melo Antunes, head of the dominant group in the military, says the Communists still have an essential role to play, they have come in for severe criticism from the democratic parties, which hold them accountable for the uprising.

The center-left Popular Democrats are demanding the immediate dismissal of all Communists from the government. The Socialists are demanding that the Communists repudiate the rebellion and swear loyalty to the government if they are to continue participating in the cabinet.

Both the Antunes faction and the Socialists probably would prefer that the Communists remain in the government to help ensure labor peace until a measure of stability is restored to the economy. Continued friction between the Popular Democrats and the Communists could, however, prompt the military to drop both parties from the government and rule with the Socialists until an election is held next spring.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SYRIA-ISRAEL



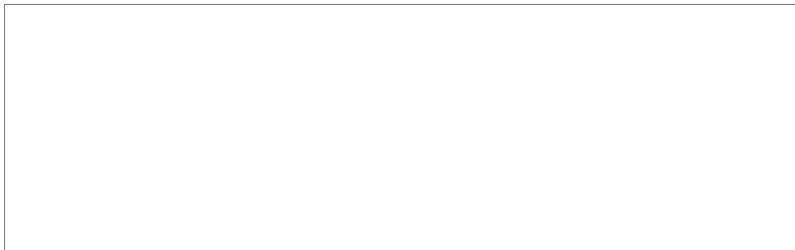
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USSR

We now think the Soviet anti-ballistic missile system under development at Sary Shagan may be designed to intercept targets after they have re-entered the atmosphere.

The Soviets initially tested the system's ability to intercept targets before they have entered the atmosphere, and it may also have this capability. In the past two years, however, the missile associated with the system--the SH-4--has been tested primarily at lower altitudes. The Soviets do not have an operational ABM capable of intercept within the atmosphere.

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The Soviets could be thinking of using the SH-4 in a special way. The missile would be launched while the incoming targets were still outside the atmosphere; it would remain aloft while the decoys burn up in the atmosphere, and only then attack the incoming re-entry vehicle.

We do not know if the SH-4 has the capability to remain aloft and wait until all decoys are gone. If not, several SH-4s might have to be launched to assure destruction of the target. Even more missiles would be required to assure destruction outside the atmosphere.

AUSTRALIA

Public opinion polls show a trend in favor of Australia's Liberal-Country coalition as the campaign for the national election on December 13 enters the final stretch. If the trend holds, the coalition will win a comfortable majority in parliament.

Constitutional questions raised by the abrupt dismissal of Whitlam's Labor government have been eclipsed by the economy as the primary issue. The coalition has also been aided by the lackluster campaign being run by Whitlam and the Labor Party.

The leader of the Liberal-Country coalition, Malcom Fraser, is running an effective, well-financed campaign. He seems to be relying mostly on the voters' disenchantment with Labor.

Fraser has hit a responsive chord with the public by pledging to introduce legislation requiring a secret ballot in labor union elections--a step designed to weaken the hold of communist union leaders.

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NOTES

The Soviet media are giving limited attention to your trip to Peking; their primary focus has been on castigating the Chinese for their "vicious attacks" on Soviet detente policies.

The media have carried all of your remarks in defense of detente in an effort to prove that the US is not about to change its policy to suit Peking. Moscow is still reminding its domestic audience, however, that China and the US have common ground on issues such as the Middle East and Angola. The Soviets also expect that there may be some progress on trade, scientific, and cultural exchanges.

* * *

Activist Catholic priests and nuns, labor union leaders, and members of the pro-Peking Communist Party are planning a protest rally in Manila to coincide with your visit. The Communists hope to take advantage of the demonstration to agitate against the US presence in the Philippines, although the main focus of the rally will be opposition to a recent labor decree by President Marcos.

The decree, among other things, imposes a total strike ban and prohibits all foreigners from engaging in trade union activities. Missionary priests, including many foreigners, are among the most active union organizers and supporters of labor activities. There is some fear the decree may be part of a broader attempt by Marcos to neutralize the church's effectiveness as a means for organizing opposition. Marcos recently has hinted that his government is considering new restrictions against foreign priests, many of whom are Americans, and the protest rally could prompt him to carry out these veiled threats.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Communal tension in Bangladesh and strained relations between Dacca and India will be exacerbated if a pro-Muslim, anti-Indian rally, called for Sunday, comes off.

The rally is being organized by a veteran opposition leader and has been heralded by inflammatory leaflets that condemn India and urge Islamic unity. The US embassy in Dacca reports that the anti-Indian sentiments in the leaflets have struck a responsive chord among Bengalee Muslims. Government officials in Dacca, fearful of Indian intervention, presumably will try to block the rally or at least keep it from getting out of hand and endangering the Hindu minority.

* * *

A communist spokesman in Laos announced on December 4 that Prince Souphanouvong will be president of the new Laotian People's Republic. His half-brother, Prince Souvanna Phouma, was named an "adviser to the government," and King Savang was made "supreme adviser" to the president.

Souphanouvong's post, as well as the advisory positions of King Savang and Prince Souvanna, almost certainly will be ceremonial since the secretary general of the Laotian Communist Party, Kaysone Phomvihan, has taken the position of prime minister. In addition, the party's deputy chief has been made deputy prime minister, and all the ministers announced are senior party officials.

* * *

Cuba has stepped up its military support for the Popular Movement in Angola. We now believe there may be as many as 4,000 Cubans in Africa supporting the war effort in Angola.



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Poland has nearly completed negotiations with General Motors on a \$500-million deal under which the US company will assist in the design and production of delivery vans.

The contract, the largest ever between Poland and a US firm, is expected to be signed next spring if Warsaw can arrange financing. The Poles have asked the Export-Import Bank for a \$121-million loan and also have asked Morgan Guaranty Trust Company to put together a consortium loan for the project.

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